

REMARKS

Amendments To The Specification

The first specification amendment above is merely a spelling correction.

The second specification amendment of the paragraph at page 63, line 4, is text taken substantially directly from the U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/010,703 filed on January 26, 1996 from which the present application claims a priority benefit. In particular, the corresponding passage in this provisional is as follows:

“By maintaining data regarding information on each game played, the users and the advertisers, the host computer 10 may maintain accurate records of every type of pertinent statistic such as: all advertisements seen by all users so that the time, date and number of views are available to the advertiser to confirm and verify:

- 1) who has seen a particular advertisement,
- 2) when it was seen,
- 3) the number of times the advertisement was accessed
 - A) by any particular user
 - B) by all users.”

The third specification amendment of the paragraph at page 69, line 3, provides the appropriate word that is missing from this paragraph.

Note, each specification amendment is believed to include no new matter in the specification. In particular, regarding the third specification amendment above, it is believed that one of ordinary skill in the art would be able to understand that the word “advertisement” should be provided.

Amendments To The Claims

The allowed claims have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis, and enhance readability. Additionally, some of the claims (including independent claims) have had their scope modified in what is believed to be minor ways. However, it is believed that the patentability of all amended claims is not affected by the amendments herein. A discuss of the amendments to each of the pending independent claims follows.

Regarding independent Claim 360, the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim.

Regarding independent Claim 361, the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim.

Regarding independent Claim 368, most of the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim. Note that the claim phrase:

“the second network connection occurs at least one day after the first connection”
has been amended to:

-- the second ~~network~~ connection ~~occurs at least one day~~ to the network is established after the first connection to the network--.

The word “network” was deleted to conform with earlier language in the claim. The phrase “occurs at least one day” was deleted, since all that is believed needed for patentability is that the second connection to the network be established AFTER the first connection to the network has been terminated. Note, this particular amendment is similar to the limitation (C) of Claim 403, and the limitation (A3) of Claim 416.

Regarding independent Claim 399, most of the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim. Note, the phrase “advertising information item” immediately above limitation (C) has been changed to – corresponding advertiser --. It is believed upon review of limitation (B) of this claim, the Examiner will see that no issues related to patentability of this claim arise due to this change.

Regarding independent Claim 401, most of the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim. Note, the phrase:

“said particular communication being transmitted independently of the service transmissions”
has been changed to:

-- said particular communications being transmitted ~~independently~~ separately of [[the]] all service transmissions from the instance to the user node--.

The change here of “independently” to “separately” changes the claim scope somewhat. However, this change is believed to be well within the patentable subject matter for the present application, and is believed to raise no issues related to the patentability of the claim.

Regarding independent Claim 403, most of the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim.

Regarding independent Claim 416, most of the amendments to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim. Note that in limitation (A2) of this claim, the phrase “related to communications” has been deleted. This may somewhat broaden the claim. However, this change is believed to be well within the patentable subject matter for the present application, and is believed to raise no issues related to the patentability of the claim. Moreover, the word “about” has been changed to “related to” as well. This may also somewhat broaden the claim. However, this change is also believed to be well within the patentable subject matter for the present application, and is believed to raise no issues related to the patentability of the claim.

Regarding independent Claim 430, the single amendment to this claim are believed to enhance the readability and/or to provide proper or clear antecedent basis of one or more terms in the claim.

NEW CLAIMS

New Claims 439-474 are each dependent on one of the allowable independent claims currently pending. Accordingly, it is believed that these new dependent claims are allowable at least due to their dependencies on the pending independent claims.

Applicant’s representative believes the claims herein are patentable over all known prior art. Accordingly, it is requested that upon reviewing the pending claims, the Examiner promptly allow the present application to proceed to issuance.

If the Examiner has any questions and/or concerns regarding the patentability of the claims provided herewith, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

It is believed that fees of \$350 are due in the present application since Applicant's representative have previously paid for 108 total claims, and have previously paid for 11 independent claims, and there are now 115 total claims and 8 independent claims pending.

Respectfully submitted,

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